

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Mr. J. G. Luehmann, F.L.S., drew attention to his exhibit of *Arenaria axillaris* (Ord. Caryophylleæ), collected by Mr. St. Eloy D'Alton at Dimboola, and *Acrotriche ventricosa* (Ord. Epacrideæ), collected by Mr. P. St. John near Lilydale, as plants new to science; and of *Scirpus prolifer*, var. *castanea* (Ord. Cyperaceæ), collected by Mr. St. Eloy D'Alton at the Grampians.

Mr. A. Mattingley read a note drawing attention to the great value of the shrub *Hymenanthera banksii* as a fodder plant. Bullocks had thriven wonderfully on it when grass was scarce, and a pastoralist had informed him that he considered it of the utmost value.

Mr. D. Le Souëf, C.M.Z.S. reported an instance of a Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Uroaëtus audax*, having attacked a sheep-dog which was following its master along a bush track in Western Australia, and had it not been for the man's presence would probably have killed the dog, showing that these birds when pressed by hunger will attack animals larger and heavier than themselves, and which they cannot possibly carry away.

Mr. D. M'Alpine described a fungus, *Clathrella pusilla*, new for Victoria, which had recently been found by Mr. C. French, jun., at Sandringham.

EXHIBITS.

By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard.—Five species of Coccidæ, forwarded by Mr. J. Lidgett, including *Mytilaspis bicornis*, Green and Lidgett, from Launceston, Tasmania.

By Mr. A. Coles.—Egg of Collared Plain Wanderer, *Pedionomus torquatus*.

By Mr. C. French, F.L.S.—A remarkable Longicorn beetle, *Hypocephalus armatus*, from Cayenne.

By Mr. C. French, jun.—Plants of *Styphelia serrulata*, with exceptionally large flowers (Mitcham, 10/6/00).

By Mr. C. J. Gabriel.—Marine shells, including *Spondylus regius* and *S. princeps*, mostly from Gulf of California; also, *Fusus pyrulatus*, from Western Port.

By Mr. J. H. Gatliff.—Marine shells, *Odostomia petterdi* and *Marginella tenisoni*, in illustration of papers.

By Mr. R. Hall and Dr. C. Ryan.—Osprey—3 phases: nestling, young, and adult.

By Mr. G. A. Keartland.—Eggs of various birds of prey, including *Uroaëtus audax*, Wedge-tailed Eagle; *Nisaiëtus morphnoides*, Little Eagle; *Haliaëtus leucogaster*, White-bellied Sea Eagle; *Haliastur girrenera*, White-headed Sea Eagle; *H. sphenurus*, Whistling Eagle; *Falco melanogenys*, Black-cheeked Falcon; *F. hypoleucus*, Grey Falcon; *F. subniger*, Black Falcon; *F. lunulatus*, Little Falcon; *Hieracidea berigera*, Striped Brown Hawk; and *H. orientalis*, Brown Hawk.

By Mr. J. G. Luehmann, F.L.S.—Dried plants—*Arenaria axillaris* and *Acrotriche ventricosa*, new to science, and *Scirpus prolifer*, var. *castanea*, new for Victoria.

By Mr. D. M'Alpine, F.C.S.—Fungus, *Clathrella pusilla*, new for Victoria.

By Mr. F. Pitcher.—Cocksfoot Grass seed, *Dactylis glomerata*, growing from seed head; two specimens of Fungus, growing on "Take-alls;" and skin of Native Bat.

By Mr. F. M. Reader.—Dried specimens of *Lepidosperma viscidum*, R. Br.; *Panicum sanguinale*, L.; *Myoporum insulare*, L.; and *Trisetum subspicatum*, Palis., all unrecorded for the N.W. of Victoria.

By Dr. C. Ryan (per Mr. C. French, jun.)—Rare nest and eggs of Keartland's Honey-eater; also eggs of Rifle-bird, from Richmond River, N.S.W.

By Mr. Chas. Walter.—Dried plants—*Stipa muelleri*, Tate, new for Victoria, from Wannan Valley, Grampians, collected by H. B. Williamson; new localities—*Lepturus incurvatus* and *L. cylindrius*, S.W. Victoria, H. B. Williamson coll.; *Ixiolena leptolepis*, Benth., Keilor Plains, C. Walter coll. Also rare plants—*Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides*, F. v. M., Keilor Plains, C. Walter coll.; *Erechtites quadridentata*, De C., variety *glabrescens*, Benth., Sandringham, C. French, jun., coll., and for comparison *E. quadridentata*, narrow-leaved variety, Werribee River.

After the usual conversazione, the meeting terminated.

SOME ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES.

(Concluded.)

BY ROBERT HALL.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 12th February, 1900.)

3. A TREE-BUILDING PARDALOTE SAID TO BE FOSTER-PARENT TO A CUCKOO.

Two birds have been handed to me by Mr. Hedley Coles, with the information that he saw the Pardalote, *P. assimilis*, Ramsay, feeding one young Pardalote and a young Bronze Cuckoo, *Chalcococcyx plagosus*, Lath., upon a bough at Carrum on 25th December last. I know of no case in which a Pardalote has been known to act as foster-parent to any of the Cuculidæ, but as the young Cuckoo here mentioned was actually fed by the Pardalote (skins of both on the table), and by all appearances was in good fellowship with young and old, I mention the incident, and wait for further information of similar cases. In the meantime it opens certain interesting considerations. Why should a young Cuckoo and a young Pardalote be peacefully fed together by parent Pardalotes? It is quite unusual, but the evidence is